

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 17th, day of July, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order. He asked that the audience please silence all of their electronic devices.
- II. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Ernest Blanchard. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Dexter Brown.
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “At this time I am going to ask that you silence all of your electronic devices.

I will also ask for a motion to amend the agenda to add **Resolution 013-2024.**

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations, as enacted by the United States Congress, mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each state.

This came down from the DOTD today and they ask that we amend the agenda because it has to be done by August 1st, 2024. At this time I am asking for a motion.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to amend the agenda to Adopt **Resolution 013-2024.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will place it at the end of the agenda where Resolution will be heard. Thank you.”

IV. **CONDOLENCES:**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Sony Quentee Blackmon, Kelly Joseph Scott Sr., Norman Newman, Beatrice Roberts, Emeritte Doucett, Gradie Gray Celestine, Jovan Vandal Sam Sr., William Joseph Eaglin, Elinor Nacoste Eaglin, Mary Mildred Dartez, Carolyn Teresa Cormier, Cyrus L. Auzenne, Joseph Ronald Johnson, Debrah Ann Green Clark, Barbara Wilson, Derrick Rueben LeDay Sr., Morris Vanright.

Councilman Alvin Stelly: John ‘T-Boy’ Richard.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin: Jack Keeling Tolson, Randy Paul Jeffers, Odile Marie Chautin Ardoin, Allen K. Smith III, Lauri Ann Comeaux, Mary Mildred Dartez, Kenneth ‘Kenny’ B. Mires.

Councilman Ernest Blanchard: Jerry ‘Pop’ Dale Frazier Sr., Jada Loretta Bergeron Janice Meredith Dischler Moon, Lacy Marie Menard (Belfantz), Eva Gradney Alfred, Barbara Jean Holmes Hardy, Elwin Berzas Granger, John ‘Lapin’ Winston Bertrand, Lessie ‘Sonny’ Lee Fontenot Jr., Hilda Benoit Richard, Mattie ‘Marie’ Lewis Fay, Lloyd Joseph Menard Sr., Carl Adam Davis Sr., Thomas James Pappillion, Autry ‘Archie’ Brown Sr., Lauri Ann Comeaux, Lainey Michelle Adams,

Mary Ann Sonnier, Charlotte E. Stutes, Cowin Damian Ortego, Lenore B. Shirley, Virginia Marie Bertrand Turner, Earlin Fruge, Wanda Benzias, Alice Bacon Guillotte, Lola M. Miller.

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.*

V. PERSON TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:
None

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to approve **the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 18th, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT:

- *Affidavit of Adjoining Landowner Parcel # 8602320500*

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The first thing I have is an Affidavit for the Adjoining Landowner. It is going to be Parcel No. 8602320500. I am not sure who District it is in. It is either Mr. Blanchard or Mr. Edwards, I am not sure.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “That should be in Mr. Blanchard’s District.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “Yes, that is on HWY 190 across from City Lake, Mr. Pat Manuel.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “We just have to make a motion.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, this will be introduced as a Special Ordinance to sell the property. So if Mr. Blanchard could Sponsor this ordinance that is all that we need for right now.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Blanchard do you have any objections to sponsoring that ordinance?”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “No I don’t.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It will come up later and be as an Ordinance in the month of August.”

- *Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire*

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The next thing is the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire that is done every year. You all should have a copy since the Committee Meeting.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We had copies at the Committee Meeting Mr. Bellard and I don’t know if it is in our packet at this time. It was suppose to be taken care of at the Committee Meeting and it was passed by.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards started, “I have a copy in my packet.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Do you need a motion?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, a motion to approve to send it to the Auditors.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize Darnall, Sikes & Frederick's to complete and sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

- ***Report of Adjudicated Property Sale***

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The next item is the Adjudicated Property that was sold at the last Auction. You should have a tab sheet that list all of the bids and the highest bidders. We need to award the highest bidder to the properties that they bought. We have \$18,740.10, we did not get it but after the process is done that is the price that we are going to get for the properties that we sold. It takes 6 to 9 months for that to take place."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do we have any questions? You need a motion Mr. Bellard?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Parish President to approve the Adjudicated Property Sales to the highest bidder.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I have one more item to discuss. Mr. Eric LeFleur will be at the next Committee Meeting. He just text me back in reference to the Bond.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "In reference to the bonding of the Road Taxes in Road District 1 of 11A."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Also for Bonding out money to buy equipment instead of leasing equipment. Right now we are paying roughly \$29,000.00 per month in lease payments where we use to lease out equipment like Motor Graders for example, \$2,500.00 per month to rent a Motor Graders and now it is \$7,500.00 per month to lease a Motor Grader. That is the same price as buying one. We are going to gather that information together and we are going to try and get our payments to around \$15,000.00 per month and save the payment and buy the equipment so it would be ours when it is over with. I will have all of that information for the next Committee Meeting on those two items for the next one."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Are there any questions for Mr. Bellard and what he just brought up?"

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, "Mr. Bellard the current ones that we have on lease do we have an Exit Clause for use to be able to release ourselves from the contract?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We will buy that same equipment. That is all some new equipment that we started with leases last year. After reviewing the leases and the prices it really makes no sense."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Are there any other questions? Do I have a motion to accept the Parish President's Report?"

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to accept the Parish President's Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

- 1. Vote to appoint Dane Mathew Marcantel to Bayou Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 12 for the remainder of a four-year term. (07-15-2023 -07-15-2027).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to appoint Dane Mathew Marcantel to the Bayou Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 12 for the remainder of a four-year term. (07-15-2023 -07-15-2027).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

- 2. Vote to appoint two applicants to the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District. Applicants are: Kathy Moreau, Jodie Castille Powell and James D. Fontenot Jr.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to appoint Kathy Moreau and Jodie Castille Powell to the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** Faltery Jolivette. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

The Votes were as follows:

<i>Councilman Jody White</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilwoman Nancy Carriere</i>	Jodie Castille Powell	James D. Fontenot Jr.
<i>Councilman Faltery Jolivette</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Abstained</i>
<i>Councilwoman Mildred Thierry</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilman Harold Taylor</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilman Ken Marks</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilman Alvin Stelly</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilwoman Vivian Oliver</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilman Dexter Brown</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Councilman Timmy Lejeune</i>	Jodie Castille Powell	James D. Fontenot Jr.
<i>Councilman Jimmie Edwards</i>	Kathy Moreau	Jodie Castille Powell
<i>Councilman Ernest Blanchard</i>	Jodie Castille Powell	James D. Fontenot Jr.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I just want to clarify something. Mr. Duplechain, Mr. F. J. Jolivette should be Abstaining from the vote completely on the Solid Waste Appointment is that correct? On appointing and actually making the motion on the appointment.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes, that would be the responsible thing to do.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “So I would have to abstain from both times on the vote as well. Understood.”

- 3. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one and two-year term. (09-19-2024 – 09-19-2025) & (09-19-2024 – 09-19-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one and two-year term. (09-19-2024 – 09-19-2025) & (09-19-2024 – 09-19-2026)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry,

Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

4. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Ward Two Gravity Drainage No. 1 for a four-year term. (09-21-2024 – 09-21-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Ward Two Gravity Drainage No. 1 for a four-year term. (09-21-2024 – 09-21-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

5. Authorize the Council Clerk to black out the Social Security Number on all Board Appointment Back Ground Check information before it is presented to the council.

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to black out the Social Security Number on all Board Appointment Back Ground Check information before it is presented to the council

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-029

(Sponsored by Councilman Timmy Lejeune)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44-3 TO HAVE A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH FOR OAK ROAD

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-030

(Sponsored by Councilman Ken Marks)

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL PROPERTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED TO ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:2201, 47:2202, 47:2203 and 47:2204 provide that a political subdivision may provide by ordinance for the sale of adjudicated property at a public sale.

X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Jody White to Adopt Ordinance 2024-022.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO.2024-022

Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FIRM AND THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL BEFORE AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL AT A ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Section 2-08 states that the St. Landry Parish Council shall provide for an annual independent audit of the accounts and financial transactions of the St. Landry Parish Government, and its' departments, offices, or agencies.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Section 2-08 states that the independent audit report shall be submitted to the St. Landry Parish Council at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall become a public record.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the independent auditor firm that conducts the independent audit mandated in Section 2-08 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter shall have three pre-audit meetings, with no more than five members of the St. Landry Parish Council attending each meeting, to discuss details of the audit prior to the independent audit report being submitted to the St. Landry Parish Council at a regularly scheduled St. Landry Parish Council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT this Ordinance shall become effective in the year 2024.

*** *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, on the next ordinance that is coming up can you all table that ordinance? I have a new one that will be coming to you all next month in reference to the same but there will be an additional change to it to add more accountability to these boards."*

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do we need a motion for that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Dexter is the sponsor and he is not here."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I understand that Dexter is not here but what do you have on that Mr. Bellard?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Everything on here like you are talking about. We are going to add some stuff to it where every board meeting like ours are audio and video recorded and it is submitted back to the parish to place on our website after 72 hours so that the people of our parish can see what all of our boards are doing and not doing."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Chairman, I move that the council vote to postpone the voting until next month."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to **postpone voting** on **Ordinance 2024-023** until next month so the Parish President Jessie Bellard can update this ordinance with additional changes.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2024-023
POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST 21, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-023 (Postponed)
Sponsored by Councilman Dexter Brown

AN ORDINANCE FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ONE HOUR OF ANNUAL IN PERSON TRAINING ON THE CODE OF GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS, ONE HOUR OF ANNUAL IN PERSON TRAINING ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION, AND ONE HOUR OF ANNUAL IN PERSON TRAINING ON CYBERSECURITY

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 42:1170 states that all elected officials and public servants shall receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental Ethics each year during their term of office or employment.

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 42:343 states that each public servant shall receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on sexual harassment prevention each year during their term in office or employment.

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 42:1267 provides for education and training for public servants on cybersecurity to keep government entities safe from cyberattack.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT once a year, for two days, in person training for one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental Ethics, one hour of education and training on sexual harassment prevention, and one hour of education on training on cybersecurity, shall be provided by St. Landry Parish Government, for any elected official, government employee, board or commission member, or other public servant who wishes to attend in order to comply with the mandatory annual training provided in LA R.S. 42:1170, LA R.S. 42:343, and LA R.S. 42:1267. St. Landry Parish Government shall schedule the dates that the ethics, sexual harassment prevention, and cyber security education and training shall be offered.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the funding for the cost of the training mandated in this section shall be appropriated by the St. Landry Parish Council each year in the annual budget.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT this ordinance shall become effective for the year 2024.

*** A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Jody White to Adopt Ordinance 2024-024.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard.

NAYS: Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Can I say something on this before we vote? I think that we are going to have a problem with this one. A lot of those board members are not going to come to our meetings before they are going to be re-appointed to a board. Like the drainage boards, why should they have to come in front of the council? That doesn’t make too much sense. We are going to have a problem with that. Our Lawyer is saying if they don’t come they will be disqualified, that is not right.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Alvin, the problem is this: These boards represent us. When these boards take action at meeting and everything else they are taking action on our behalf. I think the council should have the ability to question these applicants to make sure they are putting the proper people on these boards.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Well I think that we are going to have a problem with that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are going to have to hold these boards accountable for things because again when I know something I can’t un-know it. When I know something you all will find out about it and you all will have to take action. I think that it is a great process and with the new ordinance coming into place they are going to have to do a little bit more than what they have been doing. I think it was 80 out of 99 board members that did not do the Ethics Training and by law you have to do that. It is a lot of things that is not happening that we have to make sure that it happens and I think the first step is the interview process and you all can pick who you all want from that point.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I think each district member that have a drainage board or something like that should be in charge of that.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are there any other comments?”

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-024
Sponsored by Councilman Faltery Jolivette

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE ALL APPLICANTS WHO ARE APPLYING TO BE APPOINTED TO A BOARD OR COMMISSION TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL AT A ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PRIOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MAKING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OR COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council appoints individuals to Boards and Commissions in St. Landry Parish.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council must determine the qualifications and ability of the applicants to fulfill the requirements, responsibilities, and duties of the position on the Board or Commission that they are applying for.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that an applicant for an appointment to a Board or Commission in St. Landry Parish must go before the St. Landry Parish Council for an interview at a St. Landry Parish Council full council meeting in order to be eligible for the appointment to the Board or Commission that they are applying for.

*** **A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to Adopt Ordinance 2024-025.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-025

Sponsored by Councilman Jimmie Edwards

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE ADJUSTED MILLAGES FOR THE 2024 TAX ROLLS ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the following adjusted millages are hereby accepted for the 2024 tax rolls on all property subject to taxation:

2024 ADJUSTED MILLAGES

General Alimony	3.67 mills
Exempted Municipalities	1.83 mills
Jail Parish Wide	0.970 mills
Road District No 11A Sub 1	9.260 mills
Road District No 1 Ward 3	9.990 mills
Road District No 12 Ward 2	4.650 mills

*** **A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Jody White to Adopt Ordinance 2024-026.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-026

Sponsored by Councilman Ken Marks

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY THE ROLL FORWARD MILLAGES FOR THE 2024 TAX ROLLS ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the following roll forward millages are hereby levied on the 2024 tax rolls on all property subject to taxation:

	2024 ADJUSTED MILLAGES	2024 LEVY
General Alimony	3.67 mills	3.780 mills
Exempted Municipalities	1.83 mills	1.890 mills
Health Units		2.170 mills
Jail Parish Wide	0.970 mills	1.000 mills
Road District No 11A Sub 1	9.260 mills	9.560 mills
Road District No 1 Ward 3	9.990 mills	10.260 mills
Road District No 12 Ward 2	4.650 mills	4.800 mills

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment rolls of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

***** A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to Adopt Ordinance 2024-027.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-027
Sponsored by Councilman Dexter Brown

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44 - 3 TO HAVE A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH FOR CHARLES FISHER ROAD AND POINT VERTE ROAD

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 44-3 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances shall be amended so that the speed limits for Charles Fisher Road and Pointe Verte Road shall be 30 mph;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all other provisions of, and amendments to, St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances 44-3 shall remain unchanged and have the full effect of law.

***** A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to Adopt Ordinance 2024-028.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-028
Sponsored by Councilman Timmy Lejeune

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44, SECTION 44-14 so that Riverbirch, Nap Lane, and Nezat Road in Opelousas, LA can be included on the list of roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic” routes.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 44, Section 44-14 lists the roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic“ routes.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance amends St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 44, Section 44-14 so that Riverbirch, Nap Lane, and Nezat Road in Opelousas, LA can be included on the list of roads that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic“ routes.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that Chapter 44, Section 44-14 is hereby amended as follows:

The following roads are hereby restricted and designated as "No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic" routes:

Andrepoint Road (Parish Road 6-10);	1
Beck Miller Road (Parish Road 6-340);	2
Beck Miller Road (Parish Road 6-340-1);	3
Begnaud Road	4
Belmont Drive;	5
Comfort Lane	6
Country Ridge;	7
Darjean Road;	8
Dresser Loop;	9
Federal Road (Council District No. 1);	10
Fisher Road (Parish Road 4-110);	11
Fort Hamilton Drive (Parish Road 1-319);	12
Frank Road	13
Frilot Cove Road;	14
Gordon Street (Parish Road 6-45);	15
Government Road (Council District No. 3);	16
Greg Drive;	17
Harmon Lane in Opelousas	18
Henderson Drive	19
Hidalgo Road (Council District No. 3);	20
Highway 1244;	21
Iseringhausen Road	22
Jacob Road (Parish Road 6-345);	23
Jeff Thibodeaux (Parish Road 6-345);	24
Judson Walsh	25
Lawyer Road;	26
Littell Street (Parish Road 6-40);	27
McClelland Road (Parish Road 6-35)	28
Nap Lane;	29

National Road (Council District No. 3);	30
Nezat Road	31
North 6th Street between Hwy. 190 and Hwy. 104;	32
Perry Drive (Parish Road 6-40-1);	33
Plantation Road	34
Rainbow Drive;	35
Riverbirch;	36
Rolling Oaks Drive (Parish Road 1-397);	37
Sir Thomas Henry Drive;	38
Smith Lane (Parish Road 5-30);	39
Soileau Road (Parish Road 6-275);	40
Soileau Road from Hwy. 13 to Hwy. 757;	41
Tecumseh Loop	42
Thibodeaux Street (Parish Road 6-35-2);	43
West Loop and Hwy. 190 West intersection	44

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to adopt **Resolution 011-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So for the Resolution is there any way possible that we can change it. Instead of saying obstructing travel it is just obstructing drainage. Then we will tackle that on the drainage issue, not a travel issue.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “That is correct.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Mr. Chairman, it has already been changed.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So that is all fine and everybody is good with it? So let us vote on that Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 011-2024

WHEREAS, there is evidence of an obstruction preventing travel on Little Darbonne Bayou which is obstructing drainage in that area;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that a lawsuit is hereby by approved on behalf of St. Landry Parish Government as the Plaintiff against the landowner obstructing travel on Little Darbonne Bayou by running a cables across Little Darbonne Bayou, should such a lawsuit be necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's office is hereby authorized to file said lawsuit if said lawsuit is necessary.

*** A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to adopt **Resolution 012-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Bellard how many others have agreed to have their trees removed?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Everybody else have agreed except that one person."

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "How many?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not exactly sure. Mr. Duplechain is the one that is working on that. This is the last one that is holding out."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "A letter has been sent to the person with the tree. The FAA has regulations as to how tall and how close trees can be to an airport without obstructing airplanes from landing and taking off. All of the landowners have signed an agreement with St. Landry Parish Government and they can use Federal Money to go and remove the trees except for one landowner. Our Parish Engineer did a study and a report as to which trees that would need to be removed to bring us within Federal Guidelines. All of the landowners have agreed to have the Government remove their trees except for one landowner and a lawsuit may be necessary for the safety of the airplanes that are landing and taking off at our airport."

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, "How many people? I don't remember the number. We have been messing with this for the last 15 months."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I have that information and Van Reed has provided me with a chart of all of the people who have agreed. He also provided me with the location of the lots next to the airport. Van Reed has that information and all of them have agreed except for one."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Thank you I withdraw my question."

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, "I understand that we the Parish are going to remove the trees."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, "It has here that the landowner who owns the property located at such address to have the tree which is obstructing the take-off and landing at the St. Landry Parish Airport removed. So is it worded correctly? It is worded that the landowner removes the tree but we are saying that we are going to remove it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So the landowner can remove it himself or herself. In this particular case right here they are refusing to do so. So we are asking that we go to the courts and have the court decide on that issue. Federal moneys will be applied and more than likely it will be us removing it but we may have to have a judge order that to take place."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Are you alright with that Mr. Jolivette?"

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, "Yes sir."

RESOLUTION NO. 012-2024

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the St. Landry Parish Council that a study and report produced by the Parish Engineer for St. Landry Parish has identified a number of trees near

the St. Landry Parish Airport that are obstructing the take-off and landing of airplanes at the airport, which is in violation of FAA regulations;

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the St. Landry Parish Council that the owner of one of the trees that is obstructing the take-off and landing of airplanes at the St. Landry Parish Airport has refused to allow the St. Landry Parish Government to remove said tree, and, therefore, a lawsuit may be required to remove said tree;

WHEREAS, said tree is located at 365 Veterans Drive, Opelousas, Louisiana 70570; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that a lawsuit is hereby by approved on behalf of St. Landry Parish Government as the Plaintiff against the landowner who owns the property located at 365 Veterans Drive, Opelousas, Louisiana 70570, to have the tree which is obstructing the take-off and landing of airplanes at the St. Landry Parish Airport removed, should such a lawsuit be necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's office is hereby authorized to file said lawsuit if said lawsuit is necessary.

*** A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adopt **Resolution 013-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, one of the ordinances, I am not sure if we actually voted on it, the one that was sponsored by Mr. Marks, it will be the one that is 2024-026. We did vote on the one that Mr. Edwards sponsored on 2024-025. I don't know if we voted on 2024-026.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Yes we did vote on Ordinance 2024-026 but we will check with Ms. Sherell."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Yes we did vote on Ordinance 2024-024, Ordinance 2024-025 and Ordinance 2024-026."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Basically we had verbiage that you wanted to make sure that it was in there for drainage."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No this is on another ordinance I was speaking about."

RESOLUTION 013-2024

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations, as enacted by the United States Congress, mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity, and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each state; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate, and load post those bridges under the authority of St. Landry Parish, in accordance with those Standards, is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to St. Landry Parish. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, convened in Regular Session on the 17th day of July, 2024, that it does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) that for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

1. The Parish will perform all interim inspections on all parish-owned or maintained

bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory;

2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish will be structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual for Bridge Evaluation. The load posting information that has been determined by DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State Law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above will be critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information will be updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings, or any missing structural ratings;

3. All Parish-owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing will be load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Load Rating Directives. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting; and

4. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the DOTD are noted.

5. All bridges owned and maintained by the Parish are accessible to DOTD for all routine bridge inspections. Parish will clear vegetation as required upon DOTD request.

These stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

XII. A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, **July 3th, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** Timmy Lejeune.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Before we take a vote on this as the Chairman here I want to look at item No. 7 which was brought up by Mr. Faltery Jolivette. If I am correct in reference to the Clerk of Court’s demand in reference to some money that he would like to have given to him to operate his building on West Landry Street. At this time I am going to ask, we never voted on it but we had decided to go ahead and let the Finance Committee be the Committee that was going to oversee this situation. I have been here a long time, I know I say that sometimes but I don’t want to see us go to court with this matter. I would like for every councilmember here to take time and get with Mr. Bellard’s people and get with Mr. Jagneaux’s people, that is at his request also that you go and look at the courthouse and see how much room we have available left in the courthouse and get a layout of it before you vote on this matter and go look at that building that he bought in his name and look at the situation there before you vote on this matter.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This issue is being handled between me and the District Attorney’s Office at this time.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Sir.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I said this issue is being handled between me and the District Attorney’s Office.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “But Mr. Bellard.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “At the proper time it will come in front of the council.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “But Mr. Bellard at this time I am just asking before it goes into a lawsuit, if Mr. Jagneaux decides he wants to file suite.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Let him file suite, not a problem.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I just don’t want us to have that kind of attitude.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is not up to you to decide that Mr. Ardoin.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Okay, I have spoken. So now do I have a motion to accept the Minutes from the Administrative Finance Committee?”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, July 3th, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** Timmy Lejeune.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

XIII. ADJOURN:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a few things to bring up that I did not bring up in my Parish President’s Report. It is just some information.

I got an e-mail last night from the State of Louisiana LED addressed to me and to Ms. Jordan. I think you all need to get a copy of that. I think that she will forward a copy to you all. Some action needs to be taken before September 14th, 2024 by this council. It is a first time that I ever had that brought to my attention but it is something that they will look at and be prepared to talk about it at the August Meeting on what we have to do with this. It is an L-Tap Application that was approved back in 2020 and two years they failed to comply with their requirement so they are asking us to decide on what to do with it. We have until September 14th, 2024 to give our recommendation. That is something that you all should get a copy of in the next day or so.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We will put it on the August Committee meeting. Do you have that copy Ms. Sherell?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes I have it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The next thing is just a point of information. SLED took action yesterday with Walmart with their new contract. They approved the contract with them. That is going to take 19 years off of the original 1999 contract. They are going to be putting up some additions and some extras. They are going to put up about \$300,000,000.00 worth of work at the Distribution Center by 2029. That prompt them to come and ask the SLED Board to approve a new contract which they did yesterday. It is going to be a lot better for the parish in the long run. The information is coming but this is what happened yesterday.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 17th, day of July, 2024.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**